



## Convocation

### August 22, 2014

The mission of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®, the world's leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry, is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical, scientific minds that advance the human condition, through a system distinguished by profound questions, collaborative relationships, personalized experiential learning, global networking, generative use of technology and pioneering outreach.

#### **We Believe That...**

- All people have equal intrinsic worth.
- All people have choices and are responsible for their actions.
- Belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good.
- Diverse perspectives enrich understanding and inspire discovery and creativity.
- Honesty, trust and respect are vital for any relationship to thrive.
- Learning never ends.
- Meaning is constructed by the learner.
- No one's path in life is predetermined.
- The ability to discern and create connections is the essence of knowing.
- We are all stewards of our planet.



# IMSA Convocation

## Welcome

**Robert Hernandez**  
*Director of Student Affairs*

## Pledge of Allegiance

**Vinesh Kannan**  
*Student Council President*

## Opening Remarks

**Catherine C. Veal**  
*IMSA President*  
"Magical Thinking, Hogwarts  
and IMSA"

**Branson Lawrence, Jr.**  
*IMSA Principal*  
"With Great Responsibility. . ."

## Featured Musical Piece Sitar

**J.J. Gregg, Class of 1998**  
*alaap in Raag Jogeshwari*

## Keynote Address

**Ana Tellez, Class of 2002**  
*Interactive Media Director,  
CommunicatedHealth, Inc.*

## Closing Remarks

**Branson Lawrence, Jr.**  
*IMSA Principal*



# Biography

## Ana Tellez



As Interactive Media Director at CommunicateHealth, Inc., Ana leads the user-centered design, development, and launch of a wide range of products for healthcare and public health organizations exploring new digital product spaces – this includes mobile apps, responsive design websites, and eLearning courses. She previously worked on policy development and social media strategy at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, focusing on disease prevention and health promotion efforts. Prior to that, she worked in nonprofit consulting focusing on organizational development.

Ana graduated from Georgetown University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and from Columbia University in 2012 with a Master of Arts in Communication, Computing, and Technology in Education. She loves puns, the Muppets, and cheesy jokes (the cheesier the better). You can find her on Twitter @AnaTellez.



# Biography

## J.J. Gregg



Born in Central Illinois, J.J. Gregg's musical training began at age 8, followed by playing the French horn, piano, and drums in various school bands, jazz bands and orchestras, and years of writing, performing, and recording (in ITL/TVPL, now IMS) with his experimental rock band. In 2000, J.J. moved to Pune, India, on a study abroad program and met internationally renowned sitar player Ustad Usman Khan. For the past 14 years, he studied sitar under Khanat Naad Mandir, traveling back to Pune seven times, most recently spending a year in India during 2012-2013.

An avid education, J.J. has taught middle school mathematics, ran an elementary-age after school program for several years, taught remedial math to adults and now intends to focus primarily on teaching and performing with the sitar and increasing productivity through organic methods in his garlic patch.

J.J. has performed in the United States, India, and Thailand and recently relocated to Walla Walla, WA. More music at <https://soundcloud.com/jjgregg>